

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01205 240748Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHC 5698

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1205

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GW, YO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ASSASSINATION OF YUGOSLAV CONSUL IN
GERMANY

1. SUMMARY: THE ASSASSINATION OF CONSUL EDVIN ZDOVC IN
FRANKFURT ON FEB 7 HAS PRODUCED A STRIDENT REACTION IN
YUGOSLAVIA. PRESS HAS CARRIED NUMEROUS PROTESTS ISSUED
BY YUGOSLAV ORGANIZATION HERE AND ABROAD, CONDOLENCE
MESSAGES FROM SENIOR GOV OFFICIALS, AND BITING EDITORIALS
CALLING ON FRG TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS
AND ALL RIGHT-WING EMIGRES AND ACCUSING IT OF BAD FAITH
AND OFFICIAL COMPLICITY. WE CAN EXPECT SIMILAR REACTION
IN EVENT OF FATAL ATTACK IN US. ONE ARTICLE ALREADY
MENTIONS US AMONG COUNTRIES WHERE "CERTAIN" AUTHORITIES
SUPPORT EXTREMISTS. END SUMMARY

2. PROMINENT AMONG MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE TO ZDOVC FAMILY
WAS A TELEGRAM FROM INTERIOR SECRETARY HERLJEVIC, WHO
ESTABLISHED COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GERMAN POLICE
DURING VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC LATE LAST YEAR.
TELEGRAM SAID THAT THE MURDER "HIT US PARTICULARLY HARD
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 01205 240748Z

AFTER THE ASSURANCES OF THE MOST RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS ORGANS OF THE FR GERMANY THAT THEY WOULD PREVENT (SUCH) CRIMINAL ACTS."

3. PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED BY FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CABINET) SAID THAT THE KILLING "SHOWS THAT THE ACTIVITY OF EXTREMIST FASCIST-TERRORIST GROUPS HAS NOT BEEN PREVENTED IN THE FRG THAT IT WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES." THE FEC EXPECTS "URGENT, ENERGETIC AND PERSISTENT MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BY FASCIST GROUPS ONCE AND FOR ALL."

4. SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE REPEATED SIMILAR THEMES. WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "NIN" SAYS THAT "EXPERESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE AND PROMISES THAT THE PERPETRATORS WILL BE CAPTURED AND PUNISHED ARE NO LONGER ENOUGH." TWO WEEKS AFTER THE CRIME, THE BELGRADE DAILY "BORBA" WRITES, "IT IS A QUESTION NOT ONLY OF JUSTICE THAT IS LATE WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION... BUT ALSO OF THE ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN LEADERS OF WEST GERMANY TOWARDS THE SOURCES OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM..."

5. THE ZAGREB NEWSPAPER "VJESNIK" LEKEWISE GOES BEYOND EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO CHARGE OFFICIALS IN BOTH WEST AND EAST WITH COMPLICITY IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. REVIEWING THE HISTORY OF EMIGRE TERRORISM IN GERMANY THE AUTHOR (DJORDJE LICINA) CONCLUDES THAT ITS INCREASE IS DUE ABOVE ALL "TO THE INCONCEIVABLE BENEVOLENCE AND INEXPLICABLE TOLERANCE OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES." HE DESCRIBES NOT ONLY THE FRG BUT ALSO FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, THE U.S. AND "CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES" AS PLACES "WHERE USTASHI TERRORISTS AND CHETNIK EXTERMISTS ENJOY SUPPORT, NOT ONLY ON THE PART OF CERTAIN POLICE FUNCTIONARIES BUT ALSO ON THE PART OF CERTAIN POLITICIANS." THE WRITER CHARGES THAT EXTREMIST EMIGRES ARE BEING SUPPORTED "BY WESTERN AND EASTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES" IN ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM OF YUGOSLAVIA. HE CONCLUDES THE SERIES BY QUESTIONING THE SINCERITY OF "SEVERAL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS" WHICH STATE THAT THEY DESIRE AN INDEPENDENT, STABLE AND UNITED YUGOSLAVIA BUT CONTINUE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELGRA 01205 240748Z

TO PERMIT EMIGRE CONSPIRACIES ON THEIR SOIL.

6. ACCORDING TO GERMAN DIPLOMAT HERE, EMBASSY EXPECTED AND RECEIVED SHARP OFFICIAL PROTEST FROM FSFA. AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO CALLED IN BY INTERIOR SECRETARY TO RECEIVE A PROTEST, DIPLOMAT SAID. KILLING WILL SPEED IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAV AND GERMAN POLICE WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON EARLIER.

YUGOSLAVS HAVE BEEN EAGER FOR EVEN GREATER COOPERATION, BUT GERMANS ARE RELUCTANT TO GO TOO FAR. YUGOSLAVS HAVE LONG SOUGHT NOT ONLY REPRESSION OF EMIGRE TERRORISM BUT ALSO CRACKDOWN ON ALL HOSTILE POLITICAL ACTIVITY, WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE UNDER GERMAN LAW. TO DATE, SHARPNESS OF PROTESTS HAS NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED OTHER ASPECTS OF RELATIONS. SOURCE SAID CONFIDENTIALLY, HOWEVER, THAT SOME GERMAN DIPLOMATS HERE HAD RECEIVED THREATENING LETTERS, WHICH ARE BEING TREATED SERIOUSLY.

7. COMMENT. ZDOVC KILLING IS ANOTHER REMINDER OF DANGER FOR TERRORISM WHICH YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS FACE. GOY IS NOT ENTIRELY BLAMELESS. IT MAINTAINS DOUBLE MORAL STANDARD DEPENDING ON POLITICAL SYMPATHIES OF TERRORISTS. IT ALSO ENGAGES IN UNDERGROUND WAR WITH EMIGRES, AND GERMANS BELIEVE ZDOVC HIMSELF WAS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. GOY IS USING ZDOVC KILLING TO TRY TO FORCE ACTION AGAINST ALL POLITICAL OPPONENTS-- BOTH VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT. NEITHER GERMANS NOR WE WANT TO DO THAT.

8. NEVERTHELESS, ACTION AGAINST EMIGRE TERRORISTS REMAINS UNQUESTIONED LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION FOR BOTH GERMANS AND US. FATAL INCIDENT IN US WOULD LIKELY PRODUCE SAME REACTION AS ZDOVC KILLING AND WOULD INTERFERE WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF RELATIONS. CHARGE THAT WE TALK OF ACTION BUT DO LITTLE AGAINST TERRORISTS WOULD PARTICULARLY STING IN VIEW OF FAILURE TO ARREST PERPETRATORS OF RECENT ATTACKS IN US.
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